1	2
3. Delhi (Channel II)	Hindi
4. Lucknow	Hindi
5. Guwahati	Assamese
6. Calcutta	Bengali
7. Hyderabad	Telugu
8. Madras	Tamil
9. Trivandrum	Malayalam
10. Bangalore	Kannada
11. Bombay	Marathi
12. Ahmedabad	Gujarati

Implementation of rural development programmes

*196. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHNA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that District Rural Development Authorities are not properly formulating action plans to implement programmes such as NREP, RLEGP and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that no proper steps are being taken to provide employment opportunities for a minimum of 100 mandays to the needy persons among the weaker sections of the Society;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the intermediaries have been siphoning off the benefits and that only contractors are being employed for the road laying and other types of construction work; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the real beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Of the programmes referred to in the Question, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is not being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). Guidelines for the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) do not provide for preparation of Annual Action Plan by the DRDAs as these projects are prepared by different line departments often covering more than one district. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme schemes are mostly implemented by the concerned departments and only in a few cases the DRDAs are the implementing agencies.

As regards National Rural Employment Programme, the Guidelines require that the DRDAs prepare Annual Action Plans on the basis of shelf of projects to be kept by them. The shelf of projects are themselves to be prepared based on the felt needs of the village population. The results of the first round of concurrent evaluation for National Rural Employment Programme show that 91 per cent of the districts do prepare Annual Action Plan, though only in about 67 per cent cases they are prepared before the beginning of the financial year. There is scope for improvement in this regard.

(b) The objective of National Rural Employment Programme/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is to generate gainful employment for unemployed and under-employed persons in ru-

ral areas. Preference is given in employment to landless labourers. In addition, the objective of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is also to provided at least for one member of each of the rural landless labour households up to 100 days of employment in a year. At present, with the present level of investment only around 600 million mandays of employment is generated in a year under both these programmes. To provide 100 days of employment in a year for one member each of the landless households, about 1500 million mandays should be generated in a year. This would require about 2.5 times the present level of investment under both these programmes. Due to paucity of resources it has not been possible to achieve the above objective so far.

(c) and (d) National Rural Employment Programme/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme works are normally undertaken departmentally under the supervision of panchayats/blocks of the line department concerned. Though the Guidelines strictly prohibit the employment of contractors and other middlemen, the first round of concurrent evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme has shown that the contractors and middlemen are being employed in about 1.3 per cent cases. Complaints of violation of this provision of the Guidelines have also been brought to the notice of the Government of India now and then. These complaints are usually referred to the concerned State Governments who are responsible for implementation of these programmes for conducting necessary inquiry and taking necessary and suitable corrective actions. State Governments are asked to improve their monitoring arrangements through regular inspection of works by staff at all levels to bring about better compliance with the existing instructions.

Agricultural and cooperative projects in collaboration with USA

*197. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Agricultural and Cooperative Research Projects are under implementation in the country in collaboration with United States;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and the date since when those projects have been taken up;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to complete those projects by the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cooperation between India and U.S.A. in the field of Agricultural Research is going on at present through the following three channels:

—Science and Technology Initiative

— U.S. held rupee projects (PL-480 Projects)

— INDO-USAID Projects Grant agreement.

(i) Under the Indo-US Science and Technology Initiative Programme, five sub-projects have been developed in the major areas of Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Nitrogen Fertiliser Efficiency. The list of projects and their dates of start are given in the encolsed statements-I (*See* below).

(ii) Under the PL-480 Programme, funds are made available through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for agricultural research projects. There are at present 76 PL-480 projects in progress at various ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities and other institutions in India. The list of projects and their dates of start are given in the Statement-II [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 44].

(iii) Under the overall Indo-US subcommission and Indo-UAID Agricultural Research Projects agreement, Six sub-projects are in operation as per details given in the enclosed Statement-III (*See* below).

(c) These projects are not co-terminus with VII Plan.